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## HARBOR BLOCKED

STEAMERS SUNK ACROSS THE CHANNEL BY RUSSIANS.

### THIS KEEPS THE JAPANESE OUT

All Vessels on the Outside Keep Up Steam for Emergency—Believed that Vice Admiral Makaroff Will Adopt the Offensive.

LONDON.—A correspondent of the Daily Mail from New Chung says that after the torpedoing of the battleship Retvizin four Russian steamers, the Harbin, the Hallar, the Ninguta and the Singari, were anchored at the mouth of the entrance to Port Arthur in proper position and sunk, leaving only a small channel available. Vice Admiral Makaroff having previously ordered the whole fleet to remain outside with steam up, economy of coal being unnecessary. This dispatch, which is prominently displayed by the Daily Mail, and which the correspondent says is "on Russian information," is, if true, news of the first importance, confirming the idea that Vice Admiral Makaroff will adopt the offensive and make a desperate attempt to bring together Russia's scattered naval forces and endeavor to inflict damage upon the Japanese navy.

## RATING OF PENSIONS.

Order Regarding Payment Under the 1890 Act.

Pensions Ware, with the approval of WASHINGTON.—Commissioner of Secretary Hitchcock, has issued an order making the following change in pension ratings:

In the adjudication of pension claims under the act of June 27, 1890, as amended, it shall be taken and considered as an evidential fact, if the contrary does not appear, and if all other legal requirements are properly met that when a claimant has passed the age of 62 years, he is disabled one-half in ability to perform manual labor and is entitled to be rated at \$6 per month; after 65 years at \$8 per month, after 68 years at \$10 per month, and after 70 years at \$12 per month. Allowance at higher rate, not exceeding \$12 per month, will continue to be made as heretofore, where disabilities other than age show a condition of inability to perform manual labor.

This order shall take effect April 13, 1904, and shall not be deemed retroactive.

The former rules of the office fixing the maximum and minimum years at 75 years, respectively, are hereby modified as above.

Committee Sees Private Report.

The special committee of the house on the postoffice report has, it is said,

## TRUST QUESTION

CONGRESSMAN HEARST WOULD HAVE IT INVESTIGATED.

### RESOLUTIONS FOR COMMITTEE

Evil Effects of the Great Combinations Recited—Means Already Existing to Curb Trusts Ought to Be Rigidly Enforced.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Representative Hearst of New York on Friday introduced resolutions providing for an investigation of the trust question by a committee of five members of the house. The resolutions contain ten clauses, reciting the evil effects of trusts on the country, among them being:

"Such extortionate trusts as the beef trust and the coal trust and the like have arbitrarily increased the cost of the necessities of life to the public."

"Such speculative trusts as the shipyards and the steel trust have inflated their stock to many times its actual value and sold to the public, transferring the people's money from banks and savings banks into the pockets of trust promoters and speculators."

"Industrial unrest has been fomented by the increased cost of living and by the consequent necessary efforts of labor to make its wages keep pace with the increased cost of living."

"Such trusts as the steel trust, in spite of the increased cost of living, have ruthlessly cut down the wages of hundreds of thousands of employees in order to pay dividends on watered stock, and other trusts have wholly collapsed, throwing hundreds of thousands of workmen out of employment."

"The purchasing power of the community has been diminished by the actions of the trusts by unscrupulous methods, which have misled the people, swindled them and robbed them of their savings."

"All classes of the community are being made to feel the evil effect of the trusts, and the feeling created by the practices of the trusts."

The committee is directed to inform the house fully on the trust situation, to the end that more effective laws may be prepared and passed by congress, regulating and restricting combinations. The committee is empowered to send for persons and papers.

An additional resolution states that "It is the sense of this house, and it does recommend, that the laws already existing against the trusts be in the meanwhile enforced by the executive branch of this government and the legal representatives thereof."

The resolutions were referred to the committee on rules.

## IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

Information Asked Regarding Recent Pension Order.

WASHINGTON.—The senate adopted the following resolution offered by Mr. Overman:

"That the secretary of the interior be and he is hereby directed to inform the senate:

"First—Whether an order has recently been issued enlarging the pension act of June 27, 1890, and amendments, as to disabilities of applicants for pensions, and if so to send to the senate a copy of said order.

"Second—By what amount, if any, will said order increase pensions annually, particularly when the same shall become fully operative.

The senate passed the house bill approving the act of the territorial legislature of Arizona authorizing a bond issue of \$100,000 for the enlargement of the insane asylum of the territory.

The bill authorizing the incorporation of the American academy in Rome was passed. The senate then went into executive session and later adjourned until Monday.

## CLERK HIRE IN POSTOFFICES.

Bill introduced in the House Fixing Allowances.

WASHINGTON.—Two bills were introduced by Representative Birdall of Iowa. One authorizes the postmaster general to allow to postmasters in third-class offices, out of the surplus revenue of the respective offices, an amount for clerk hire in addition to allowance for "separating" services.

In offices where the salary of the postmaster is \$1,900, \$600; where the salary is \$1,800, \$500; where the salary is \$1,700, \$400; and where the salary is \$1,600, \$300.

The other bill authorizes the postmaster general to designate offices at the intersection of mail routes as distributing or separating offices, and making reasonable allowances for clerk hire for this work.

Miner's Vote to Accept Scale. INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—The tellers completed canvassing the miners' vote this afternoon. Total vote, 163,887. For accepting the scale, 96,514; against the scale and in favor of a strike, 67,373. Majority against a strike, 31,141. Secretary Wilson of the United Mine Workers said a meeting of the joint appeals committee would be held in Indianapolis next Monday, when the scale would be signed for two years and arrangements made to meet in joint convention two years hence.

A Change to Take Place in Office of U. S. District Attorney. WASHINGTON.—William S. Summers, United States district attorney for Nebraska, it is said, is slated to lose his official position within a short time. The president is said to have given assurances to that effect to Senator Dietrich and Edward Rosecrans. The removal will not take place until after the senate committee shall have concluded the Dietrich investigation and had its report acted upon by the senate. Harry C. Lindsay will probably be Summers' successor.

## DECISION IS SOUND LAW.

Is for the Benefit of All Legitimate Interests.

WASHINGTON.—The attorney general, being asked concerning the merger decision, said:

"My views of the decision cannot be better expressed than in the language of one of the best known railroad presidents in the United States upon the decision in favor of the government by the court below. He said: 'The decision is sound law, good and for the benefit of all legitimate interests and for the country's welfare, and it voices the judgment of probably nine-tenths of the most conservative business men of the country.'"

"As to the bearing upon other railroads, I have this to say: The government has never claimed that the law is any broader than its language plainly indicates."

"During the trial and argument the government paid no heed to the defendant's contention that the makeup of substantially all the great American systems of railroads was on the government's side. It was there, that the question before the court was as to the validity of the Northern Securities device."

## DEWEY WIRES EXPLANATION.

Why He Failed to Call on President Morales at San Domingo.

WASHINGTON.—Admiral Dewey, who with several members of the general staff and Assistant Secretary Loomis of the State department, are now at Havana, has telegraphed the Navy department the reasons why he failed to call on President Morales of San Domingo when the party were in San Domingo waters several days ago.

The failure to visit caused considerable surprise at the time. It appears that there was fighting in progress in the vicinity on the day the admiral did not deem it advisable to make an official visit. During the forenoon there were several casualties in San Domingo city from the fighting, then in progress. This was caused from shots crossing the river, through which the boat must pass, and as more fighting was expected during the afternoon the admiral gave up the projected visit. The admiral, however, sent his respects to President Morales by United States Minister Powell.

## ARE NOT GOING TO CANADA.

Hill Says They Would as Soon Go to Mars or the Moon.

NEW YORK.—In regard to the report that the Northern Securities company of Canada was to be the successor of the Northern Securities company of the United States, President Hill was quoted as saying:

"We have as much notion of incorporating a company in Mars or the moon as in Canada. We intend to continue to do business in the United States."

Later James J. Hill gave out the following:

"Until the full official copies of the opinions and decree of the supreme court have been received and our attorneys have had an opportunity to advise us as to our course of procedure under the law of the company can make no further announcement than to declare their purpose to promptly and fully follow the law as now interpreted."

## MILLARD SEES THE PRESIDENT.

No Change in U. S. District Attorney at Present.

WASHINGTON.—While at the White house Senator Millard talked to the president about the case of William S. Summers, United States attorney for Nebraska, whose removal from office it is said, has been promised by the president to Edward Rosecrans of Omaha and Senator Dietrich of Nebraska. Senator Millard put the matter to the president in such a way that no change will be made in the office for some time at least, and Summers will remain where he is until he can be succeeded by someone else. Senator Millard has not yet reached the point of assent to this proposition.

It is said there is no question that Summers will eventually fall of reappointment, but the president will not care to hasten his removal until Senator Millard is willing.

## CUTS THE APPROPRIATION.

Money for the Lewis and Clarke Expedition.

WASHINGTON.—The house committee on industrial arts and exhibitions considered in an all-day session the report of its sub-committee on the senate bill appropriating \$1,750,000 toward the Lewis and Clarke expedition to be held at Portland, Ore.

The sub-committee cuts the appropriation to \$900,000 for a government building; \$225,000 for government exhibits; \$25,000 for an Alaskan exhibit; \$25,000 for a Philippine exhibit, and authorizes the coinage of 250,000 souvenir dollars. These dollars are to sell at \$2 each and the profit will go to the exhibition company. The full committee will consider the bill again Saturday.

## Russia Looking for Contraband.

PORT SAID, Egypt.—The Russian armored cruiser Dmitri Donaski is visible from this port patrolling in search of vessels carrying contraband of war. It mistook the Italian armored cruiser Marco Polo for a merchantman and stopped it by firing a blank cartridge across its bows.

On discovering its mistake the Dmitri signalled apology. The Donaski stopped the Norwegian steamer Standard this morning. It is said that the Standard was within the three mile limit.

## Supplies for Russian Wounded.

PARIS.—M. Neldoff, son of the Russian ambassador to France, has gone to St. Petersburg, taking a large quantity of supplies for the Russian wounded presented by the French women's organizations. The latter are also sending a complete equipment for a field hospital of 100 beds.

These organizations are giving letters throughout France, that at Cannes under the patronage of Grand Duke Michael and Prince Segre Galitzin yielding a large sum.

## Civil Service in the Philippines.

WASHINGTON.—The president has issued an executive order applying civil service rules to the service of the war department in the Philippines and also classifying employees in that service specially commended.

## Greener is Sixty-Seven.

PRINCETON, N. J.—Grover Cleveland has quietly observed his 67th birthday at home. There was no celebration except that he received some of his most intimate Princeton friends, who called to offer congratulations.

## VESSEL IS BLOWN

TORPEDO BOAT DESTROYER STRIKES A MINE.

### FOUR OF THE CREW SAVED

Russian Boat is Completely Wrecked by the Mine Bomb—Damage is Done to the Torpedo Boat Destroyer by Bombardment of Port Arthur.

CHIEF FOE.—While entering Port Arthur the Russian torpedo boat destroyer Skorni struck upon an unplaced mine and was blown up. Four of the crew were saved.

Viceroy Alexief wires a report confirming our account of the damage done to Port Arthur during the bombardment of March 10. He says the story of a fire there is "a base fabrication."

The United States cruiser Cincinnati arrived at 5 p. m. from Chemulpo, reports everything quiet, with no news from the front. At the request of Minister Allen the cruiser brought two former Korean officers, who had left Korea in consequence of their friendship for Russia.

Warships have been received here confirming previous reports to the effect that the Russians have laid mines along the Liao Tung peninsula and that neutral vessels are obliged to show their colors five blometers off shore and await a Russian pilot.

NEW YORK.—Three Norwegian steamers—the Brand, Argo and Stretstad, released a few days ago by the authorities at Port Arthur, have arrived at Shanghai, according to a World dispatch from that city. The captains, who were put under oath by the Russians to reveal nothing they saw, refuse to speak of affairs at Port Arthur, but the correspondent asserts that members of the crews willingly told what they know. During the bombardment last Sunday the Argo lay alongside the battleship Retvizin in the harbor, and one of the Norwegians confessed to reports to the effect that a Japanese shell fell on the Retvizin's deck, where it exploded, killing nineteen officers and men.

Scarcely a residence in the new part of the town escaped damage. Many of the inhabitants attempted to construct rude bombproof shelters. One shell fell among a crowd of sightseers, who gathered at a point of vantage and were gazing out to sea at the attacking fleet. The shell killed twenty-five.

Three government clerks were killed while hurrying from the port admiral's office after the announcement of a cruiser lying at anchor a cable's length from the Retvizin, probably the Diana, was struck on the water line and set on fire. The sailors declared that eighty persons on board perished.

The supply of food in Port Arthur is still sufficient for the needs of the garrison, but it is entirely under the control of the military authorities, who issue daily rations.

## CONGRATULATE THE PRESIDENT.

People Send Messages Showing Pleasure Over the Merger Pleas.

WASHINGTON.—Messages of congratulation from all parts of the country are being delivered to President Roosevelt by telegraph, by mail and in person on the supreme court's decision in the Northern Securities case.

President Roosevelt personally congratulated Attorney General Knox Tuesday after the announcement of the decision and at the cabinet meeting he renewed his congratulations to Mr. Knox. In his cordial expressions he was joined by the attorney general's fellow cabinet members.

The attorney general, just before the cabinet meeting, declined to indicate what action, if any, he might take in the future in following up the supreme court's decision. He would not say whether he had formed any plans looking to prosecutions of further actions under the Sherman anti-trust act or not. Thus far he has not had opportunity thoroughly to digest the decision of the court and until he has considered it carefully he will not determine, much less indicate, what future action he make take.

## DOES IT INCREASE CANCER?

Investigating Effect of Chilled or Frozen Meat.

LONDON.—The question was raised in the house of commons today whether chilled or frozen meat has any injurious effect on consumers, and especially whether such meat contributes to the increasing number of cases of cancer in the United Kingdom.

President Long of the local government board said that while he had no information to the above effect he thought the matter might properly be referred to the royal commission of inquiry into the causes of cancer, which is now sitting.

## DRAFTING STATEHOOD BILL.

Propose to Make Two States Out of Four Territories.

WASHINGTON.—The statehood problem was taken up by the sub-committee of the house committee on territories, recently appointed to draft statehood bills for Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma and Indian Territory. The bill making a state of the first two was practically completed. The difficulty of adjusting the taxation and other questions with regard to the admission of Oklahoma and Indian Territory as a state are next to be taken up.

## Lining Up for the Fry.

WASHINGTON.—A call was issued for a caucus by the republican members of the senate and house, to be held in the hall of the house Monday evening next at 8 o'clock to elect members of the national republican campaign committee.

Three to One Against Strike. SEELYVILLE, Ind.—The seven local unions in this vicinity Tuesday voted against going on a strike. The majority against striking is estimated at three to one.

## The Service Pension Bill.

WASHINGTON.—That action on the service pension bill will not be taken during the present session of congress is practically the decision reached by the leaders of both branches.

## Report Not Confirmed.

SEOUL.—Persistent reports are current to the effect that the Russians have burned and evacuated Port Arthur and Dalny and are retiring up the peninsula.

## WORK IN SENATE.

The Fortification Measure Has Passed.

WASHINGTON.—The senate passed the fortification appropriation bill Tuesday after a three hours discussion of the amendment authorizing the purchase of an experimental torpedo boat and the provision for the purchase of sites of defense works in the Hawaiian islands. The torpedo boat provision was stubbornly fought, but the amendment suggested by the committee on appropriations was retained. The Hawaiian provision, which had been eliminated by the committee, was restored and the sum increased from \$200,000, as fixed by the house, to \$226,100. Several other bills were passed. One of these appropriates \$1,000,000 for a public building at Atlanta, Ga.

In response to a request from Mr. Lodge, Mr. Perkins explained the reasons which actuated the committee in striking out the house provision for the purchase of sites for defenses of the Hawaiian islands saying that the committee's action had been due to the fact that the government had no option on land for this purpose, which might have the effect of placing the government at the mercy of real estate owners. He also said the amount named was not sufficient.

Mr. Spooner and Mr. Foraker took the position that on account of the outlying position of Hawaii, the United States should be prompt in providing for its protection, and Mr. Perkins said he was willing, if a sum sufficient to accomplish the purpose sought could be secured. In accordance with Mr. Perkins' suggestion, Mr. Spooner offered an amendment appropriating \$226,100, instead of \$200,000. This amendment was accepted without division.

By common consent the senate resumed consideration of the torpedo amendment, and Mr. Gallinger offered a substitute, providing for compensation, insuring a vessel of the type desired. The amendment was defeated, 17 to 35.

The fortifications bill as amended was then passed and the senate went into executive session.

## MERGER GIVEN DEATH BLOW.

Court Holds the Northern Securities Company a Trust.

WASHINGTON.—In the United States supreme court Monday an opinion was delivered in the merger case of the United States against the Northern Securities company in favor of the government's contention that the merger was illegal. The opinion of the court was handed down by Justice Harlan, and it upheld the decree of the circuit court for the district of Minnesota in every particular. Four of the justices dissented from the five constituting the majority.

The division in the court was due to a difference of opinion as to the right of the federal control of the state corporations. The majority opinion holds that congress has a right under the constitution to control interstate commerce, no matter by whom conducted, while the minority of the dissenting opinion is based on the theory that in the present case the effort is to regulate the ownership and is not interstate traffic.

An effort was made by the court to prevent the knowledge of the fact that the opinion was to be rendered Monday from getting to the public, but, nevertheless, it was quite generally understood among attorneys and others for an hour or so before the convening of court Monday that the decision would be announced. When, therefore, the members of the court filed into the chamber at noon they were met by an expectant crowd which filled every seat, both inside and outside the bar.

The executive committee of the woman's republican state central committee has called a state convention of republican women to be held at Springfield, Ill., May 11, the day preceding the republican state convention.

First Lieutenant Arthur G. Harpley of the Tenth cavalry, having been tried by a general court-martial at Manila and found guilty of serious charges affecting his moral character, has been sentenced to dismissal from the army.

The German branch of the Evangelical alliance protests against the resignation of the Jesuits to Germany. The alliance consists of the trustees of Princeton university, in place of Prof. J. Mark Baldwin.

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## Brief Telegrams

At Rome twin, were recently born to a couple, both of whom are over 70. By-products of oil refineries are expected to make excellent fuel for greenhouses.

An engineer, fireman and brakeman were killed in a collision between Canadian Pacific and Boston & Maine freight trains near Leavenworth.

Illinois rural carriers send many letters to Senator Culom seeking increases in pay and protesting against their agency rights being taken away. Assaults of citizens and intimidation of voters at the democratic primaries at St. Louis are being made subjects of an investigation by the grand jury.

Bulgaria and Turkey have entered into an agreement by which the ports promise an extension of reforms, which virtually means peace for the Balkan states.

The new grand jury, which has been holding sessions at Milwaukee for six weeks past investigating city and county alleged irregularities, returned a number of indictments.

The transport Sheridan sailed from Manila for San Francisco with 594 enlisted men of the Eleventh cavalry and a battalion of Philippine scouts, bound for the St. Louis expedition.

The report from New Chung that four Russian steamers have been sunk at the entrance to Port Arthur after the removal of the battleship Retvizin, is authoritatively denied.

Rear Admiral Walker told the house committee on interstate and foreign commerce that he expects work will be commenced on the Panama canal within two or three months.

E. B. Critchlow, formerly assistant United States attorney for Utah, testified that the Mormon church uses ostracism to enforce absolute obedience in all things, business and political.

An autograph letter from Thomas Jefferson, written 100 years ago to the Indians of the Louisiana Purchase, has recently been unearthed from the archives of the Sac and Fox Indians in Oklahoma.

Prof. Frank Thilly, Ph. D. of the University of Missouri, has been elected a student professor of psychology at the meeting of the trustees of Princeton university, in place of Prof. J. Mark Baldwin.

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